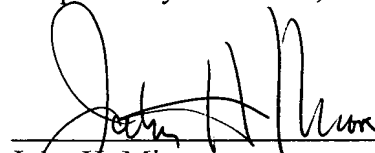


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
PCT/EP02/14900, FILED DECEMBER 24, 2002

**REMARKS**

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby both ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action and eliminating the need for a multiple dependent claim fee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 1, 2005